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Docket No. END5214USNP

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Nobis, Rudolph et al.
Serial No. : 10/674,235 Art Unit: 3762
Filed : September 29, 2003 Examiner: Not assigned
For : ACTUATION MECHANISM FOR FLEXIBLE ENDOSCOPIC DEVICE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the
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/Gerry Gressel/
Gerry Gressel

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

FIRST SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.97-1.98, information relating to the above-identified application is hereby disclosed. Inclusion of information in this statement is not to be construed as an admission that this information is material as that term is defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

Applicant(s) reserve(s) the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered.

This statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, or that information more material to the examination of the present patent application does not exist.

☒ In accordance with §1.97(b), since this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed either within three months of the filing date of the above-identified national application (other than a continued prosecution application under §1.53(d)), within three months

of the date of entry into the national stage of the above identified application as set forth in §1.491, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits of the above-identified application, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under §1.114, no additional fee is required.

☐ In accordance with §1.97(c), this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the period set forth in §1.97(b) above but before the mailing date of either a Final Action under §1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under §1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution and that it is accompanied by one of:

- ☐ Statement in Accordance with §1.97(e) (attached); or
- ☐ Please charge Deposit Account No. 10-0750/ / the fee of \$180.00 as set forth in §1.17(p).

☒ A translation is provided for any listed references that are not in the English language.

☒ Attached are copies of search report(s) from corresponding patent application(s), which are listed on the attached Submission Under MPEP 609 D.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 10-0750/END5214USNP/GSG. This form is submitted in triplicate.

Respectfully submitted,

/Gerry Gressel/

Gerry Gressel, reg#34,342

Johnson & Johnson
One Johnson & Johnson Plaza
New Brunswick, NJ 08933-7003
(513) 337-3535
DATED: June 8, 2005



PTO/SB/08A (08-00)
Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031
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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

Application Number	10/674,235
Filing Date	September 29, 2003
First Named Inventor	Rudolph Nobis et al.
Group Art Unit	Not assigned
Examiner Name	Not assigned
Attorney Docket Number	END5214USNP

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document mm-dd-yyyy	Pages, Columns, Lines, where relevant passages or relevant figures appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
		4,909,789		Akihiro, et al.	03-20-1990	ALL
		5,152,278		Clayman	10-06-1992	ALL
		5,352,235		Koros, et al.	10-04-1994	ALL
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		5,908,436		Frank, et al.	06-01-1999	ALL
		6,533,720	B1	Dhindsa	03-18-2003	ALL
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		6,575,919		Scribner, et al.	06-10-2003	ALL
		6,786,865	B2	Dhindsa	09-07-2004	ALL
		US 2001/018553		Haan, et al.	08-30-2001	ALL
		US 2002/062065		Daniel, et al.	05-23-2002	ALL
		US 2002/095177		Kupferschmid, et al.	07-18-2002	ALL

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document mm-dd-yyyy	Pages, Columns, Lines, where relevant passages or relevant figures appear	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵				
		DE	203 11 293	U1	Aesculap AG & Co. KG	03-18-2003	ALL	T
		EP	0 908 141	A1	Ethicon Endo-Surgery, Inc.	04-14-1999	ALL	
		WO	02/39910	A2	ESD Medical, LLC	05-23-2002	ALL	
							ALL	
							ALL	
							ALL	

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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